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## Press Release

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Contact: Kevin Smith  
619-533-6469 (office), 619-675-4458 (cell)

# **San Diego River Conservancy Builds Passageway Connecting Mission Valley to Beach Areas & Mission Bay**

**San Diego, CA-** Today, members of the San Diego River Conservancy, including Conservancy Chair Councilmember Donna Frye, were joined by District 2 City Councilmember Kevin Faulconer to kick off the construction of the San Diego River Pedestrian and Bike Path at Sefton Field Park in Mission Valley.

Frye commented, "The construction of this pedestrian and bike path will connect Ocean Beach, Mission Bay and Mission Valley and create a gorgeous passageway for all members of the community to enjoy." Frye continued, "It is a project that really adds to the beauty of the San Diego River Park and provides increased recreational access to the River."

The Pedestrian and Bikeway project will extend the existing Ocean Beach bike path along the north side of Interstate 8 between Ocean Beach and Pacific Highway to the western terminus of Hotel Circle Place (approximately 3,900 feet to the east). The bikeway will provide non-vehicular traffic with a travel route between the Ocean Beach and Old Town areas and the retail centers of the Mission Valley area. The project is scheduled to be completed during the summer of 2008. The estimated total cost of the project is \$2.55 million. The River Conservancy procured \$2 million in grant funding for the project.

Mike Nelson, River Conservancy Executive Director, said, "This pathway is a wonderful addition to the San Diego River Park, not only for the residents of Ocean Beach and Mission Valley to use, but for the direct gateway it will provide from inland areas to our beach communities that won't require you to get in a car." Nelson added, "People now have a significant stretch of pathway in a quiet, beautiful area to exercise on their way to the beach."

Frye is Chair of the San Diego River Conservancy and City Councilmember for the Sixth District of the City of San Diego and Nelson is the Executive Director of the River Conservancy. The Conservancy was established by an act of the California Legislature to preserve, restore and enhance the San Diego River area. The Conservancy's eleven-member Governing Board consists of both state and local representatives, creating a partnership which reflects the diversity and dedication to conserving this highly valued resource of statewide significance. Faulconer is the District 2 City Councilmember, which includes the community of Ocean Beach and sections of Mission Bay.

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